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The Random House College Dictionary

REVISED EDITION

A DICTIONARY OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

With 1,000 Illustrations and 1,000 Photographs
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This dictionary is a revised edition of the Random House
College Dictionary, first published in 1936. It contains
over 100,000 words and is the most complete and
authoritative dictionary of the English language
available today.

The dictionary is arranged in alphabetical order and
contains many helpful features, including
cross-references, etymologies, and
pronunciations.

It is a valuable reference work for students, teachers,
and anyone who is interested in the English language.

Based on **The
Random House
Dictionary of the
English Language**

THE UNABRIDGED EDITION

JESS STEIN • EDITOR IN CHIEF

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REVISED EDITION

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irp/wit/id), *adj.* having or showing sharp-wit/ted-ly, *adv.* —sharp-

pl. sharp-ies. sharpie.
 7. *shāsh/lik*, *n.* See shish kebab.
 as-lik' / < Russ < some Turkic dial.;

Mount, a volcanic peak in N Calif. Range, 14,161 ft.
 any of several horticultural varieties of *imium*, having large, daisylike flowers. [ASTA]

n. Lal Ba-ha-dur (lāl bā hā/dōr), *ismān*: prime minister 1964-66.
 jat'al āb), *n.* a river in SE Iraq, on the Tigris and Euphrates rivers, rsian Gulf, 123 mi. long.

1. to break (something) into pieces, damage, as by breaking or crushing.
 y (health, nerves, etc.). 4. to weaken, deas, opinions, etc.). —*v.t.* 5. to be its or become weak or insubstantial.
 7; cf. SCATTER] —*shat/ter-er*, *n.*
 10. —*Syn.* 1. shiver, split, crack. See

at/or prōōl'), *adj.* designed or made *hatterproof* glass.

aved, shaved or shav-en, shaving, *n.* growth of beard with a razor. —*v.t.* 2. (the face, legs, etc.) by cutting it off h a razor. 3. to cut off (hair, esp. the n with a razor. 4. to cut or scrape away sharp-edged tool. 5. to reduce to shav-. to cut or trim closely: to shave a lawn. come very near to: The car just shaved to reduce or deduct from (a price). ess, or an instance of shaving or being lice; shaving. 11. any of various tools r, removing thin slices, etc. [ME; OE to plane (a plank), abrade (the skin). m, Icel *skafa* to scrape, Goth *skaban* to v-a-ble, shave/a-ble, *adj.*
 ing), *n.* 1. young fellow; youngster. a head-shaven clergyman.
 v. 1. a pp. of shave. —*adj.* 2. closely

1. 1. a person or thing that shaves. 2. Informal, a small boy; youngster. 4. a person who makes close bargains or is [E]

āl'), *n.* Slang. U.S. Army, a second + tail; first said of unbroken army re shaved to mark them as raw recruits) m), *adj.* 1. of, pertaining to, or char- Bernard Shaw or his works: Shawian scialist in the works of George Bernard ization of SHAW) + -IAN] —*Shav/i-an*

Scot. a trick or prank. [special use of]

1. 1. a very thin piece or slice, esp. of a person or thing that shaves. [ME] o/s, -es), *n.* Judaism. Shabuothe. f. a small wood or thicket. [ME *shawe*, in to SHAG]

George Bernard, 1856-1950. Irish novelist: Nobel prize 1925. 2. Henry gs, Josh. 3. Irwin, born 1913. U.S. 4. Thomas Edward. See Lawrence,

piece of wool or other material worn women, about the shoulders or the head ers *shāl*]

an early musical woodwind instrument : the forerunner of the modern oboe. ME *chaume* < L *calam* (us) stalk, reed < ME *schallemete* < MF *chalem*: c. ML ia, of L *calamus* stalk, reed pipe)

), *n.* pl. -nees, (esp. collectively) -nee. Algonquian-speaking tribe formerly in, now in Oklahoma. 2. the Algonquian wnee tribe. 3. a city in central Okla- [back formation from *Shawanese* < outh + -zee]

), *n.* the tenth month of the Islamic

lefly Dial. a chaise. [back formation y plural]

Daniel, 1747-1825, American Revolu- c: leader of a popular insurrection in Massachusetts 1786-87.
 gcher bā kōl'), *n.* a city in the W ral Soviet Union in Europe, N of olga. 195,000 (est. 1962). Formerly,

nom. she, *poss.* her or hers, *obj.* her; hair or theirs, *obj.* them; *n.* pl. shes; in question or last mentioned. 2. the is learns. 3. anything considered, as by feminine: spring, with all the memories 4. a woman or female. 5. an object or female or feminine. [ME, alter. of OE demonstrative pronoun; r. OE *hīe*, acc. pronoun; see *hē*, *hēr*]
 orm of she: *she-wolf*.

haves. 1. one of the bundles in which st. are bound after rearing. 2. any ilection: a sheaf of papers. [ME *shefe*, f sheaf, G *Schaub* wisp of straw, Icel

ared or (esp. Dial.) shore; sheared or —*v.t.* 1. to cut (something). 2. to cutting or clipping: to shear wool from lip the hair, fleece, wool, etc., from: to rip or deprive (usually fol. by *off*): to power. 5. Chiefly Scot. to reap with a

sickle. 6. to travel through (air, water, etc.) by or as by cutting. —*v.t.* 7. to cut or cut through something with a sharp instrument. 8. *Mech.* to become fractured along a plane as a result of forces acting parallel to the plane. 9. Chiefly Scot. to reap crops with a sickle. —*n.* 10. Usually, shears, (sometimes construed as sing.) a, scissors of large size (usually used with pair *of*). b. any of various other cutting implements or machines having two blades that resemble or suggest those of scissors. 11. the act or process of shearing or being sheared. 12. a shearing of sheep (used in stating the age of sheep): a sheep of one shear. 13. the quantity, esp. of fleece, cut off at one shearing. 14. one blade of a pair of shears. 15. Usually, shears, (sometimes construed as sing.) Also, sheers. Also called shear legs, a framework for hoisting heavy weights, consisting of two or more spars with their legs separated, fastened together near the top and steadied by guys, which support a tackle. 16. a machine for cutting rigid material by moving the edge of a blade through it. 17. *Mech.* the tendency of forces to deform or fracture a member in a direction parallel to the force, as by sliding one section of the member along another. 18. *Physics.* the lateral deformation produced in a body by an external force, expressed as the ratio of the lateral displacement between two points lying in parallel planes to the vertical distance between the planes. [ME *shere(n)*, OE *sceran*; c. D, G *scheren*, Icel *skera*] —*shear-er*, *n.*

shear, legs', shear (def. 15). Also, sheerlegs.
 shearing (shē'ring), *n.* 1. Chiefly Brit. a yearling sheep that has been shorn once. 2. short wool pulled from such a sheep. [ME *shering*]

shearwater (shēr'wō'tər, -wō'tər), *n.* any of several long-winged sea birds, esp. of the genus *Puffinus*, allied to the petrels, that appear to shear the water with their wings when flying low.

sheath-fish (shē't/fish'), *n.* pl. -fish-es, (esp. collectively) -fish. a large, fresh-water catfish, *Silurus glanis*, of central and eastern Europe; [dissimilated var. of *sheath*-fish; see *sheath* (shēth), *n.* pl. sheaths (shēth), *v.* —*n.* 1. a case or covering for the blade of a sword, dagger, or the like. 2. any similar close-fitting covering or case. 3. *Biol.* any of various closely enveloping parts or structures in an animal or plant organism, as the leaf base when it forms a vertical coating surrounding the stem. 4. a close-fitting dress. —*v.t.* 5. to sheathe. [ME *sheath(e)*, OE *scæth*; c. G *Scheide*; see *sheaf*]

sheath-bill (shēth'bil'), *n.* either of two white sea birds, *Chroico alba* or *C. minor*, of the colder parts of the Southern Hemisphere: so called from the horny sheath covering the base of the upper bill.

sheathe (shēth), *v.t.* sheathed, sheathing. 1. to put (a sword, dagger, etc.) into a sheath. 2. to plunge (a sword, dagger, etc.) into something as if into a sheath. 3. to enclose in or as in a casing or covering. 4. to cover or provide with a protective layer or sheathing. [ME *shethe*. See *sheath*]

sheathing (shē'thing), *n.* 1. the act of a person who sheathes. 2. a covering, or outer layer, as one of metal plates on a ship's bottom. 3. material for forming any such covering.

sheath/knife/, a knife carried in a sheath.

sheave' (shēv), *v.t.* sheaved, sheaving. to gather, collect, or bind into a sheaf or sheaves. [from *SHEAF*]

sheave' (shēv, shēv), *n.* 1. a pulley for hoisting or hauling, having a grooved rim for retaining a wire rope. 2. a wheel with a grooved rim, for transmitting force to a cable or belt. [ME *schine*; akin to D *schijf* sheave, G *Scheibe* disk]

sheaves' (shēvz), *n.* pl. of sheaf.

sheaves' (shēvz, shēvz), *n.* pl. of sheave.

She-ba (shē'ba), *n.* Bible. 1. Queen of, the queen who visited Solomon to test his wisdom. I Kings 10:1-13. 2. Biblical name of Saba.

she-bang (shā'bang'), *n.* Informal, an organization, contrivance, affair, etc., considered in its total structure: The whole shebang fell apart when the chairman quit. [?]

She-bat (shē'vāt'), *n.* the fifth month of the Jewish calendar. Also, Shevat. Cf. Jewish calendar. [Heb.]

she-been (shē'boor is Scotland. Also, she-bean'. [? Ir shēbēn, cf. *shēbēn* small mug, hence (drink of) ale, very weak beer]

She-be-li (shē'bā'lē), *n.* We-bi (wē'bī), See Webi Shebeli. Also, Shibeli.

She-boy-gan (shē'boi'gan), *n.* a port in E Wisconsin, on Lake Michigan. 48,484 (1970).

She-chem (shē'kēm, -kēm, shēk'ēm, -ēm), *n.* a town of ancient Palestine, near the site of Samaria; now in NW Israeli-occupied Jordan: first capital of the northern kingdom of Israel. 213,000 (est. 1968). Also, Sichem, Sychem. Modern name, Nablus.

She-chi-nah (shē'kē'nə, -ki-/; Heb. shē khē nā'), *n.* Theol. Shekinah.

shed' (shēd), *n.* 1. a slight or rude structure built for shelter, storage, etc. 2. a large, strongly built structure, often open at the sides or end. [OE *scēd*, var. of *scēad* SHADE, shelter] shed' (shēd), *v.* shed, shed-ding, *n.* —*v.t.* 1. to pour forth (water or other liquid), as a fountain. 2. to emit and let fall, as tears. 3. to impart or release; give or send forth (light, sound, fragrance, influence, etc.). 4. to resist being penetrated or affected by: cloth that sheds water. 5. to cast off or let fall (leaves, hair, feathers, skin, shell, etc.) by natural process. 6. *Textiles.* to separate (the warp) in forming a shed. —*v.t.* 7. to fall off, as leaves. 8. to drop out, as hair, seed, or grain. 9. to cast off hair, feathers, skin, or other covering or parts by natural process. 10. shed blood, a. to cause blood to flow. b. to kill by violence; slaughter. —*n.* 11. *Textiles.* (on a loom) a triangular, transverse opening created between raised and lowered warp threads through which the shuttle passes in depositing the loose pick. [ME; OE *scēadan*], var. of *scēdan*; c. G *schieden* to divide] —shed-a-ble, shed-da-ble, *adj.* —*Syn.* 3. emit, radiate, spread. 4. repel. 9. molt.

She'd (shēd), 1. contraction of *she had*. 2. contraction of *she would*.

ad, šlē, dāre, šār; ebb, ēqual; lf, ice; hot, deer, order; oil; dōck; dōze; out; up, ūrge; a = a as in alone; chief; shē; thē; thīn; thā; zh as in measure; a as in button (but'n), fire (fīr). See the full key inside the front cover.

shed-der (shēd'ər), *n.* 1. a person or thing that sheds. 2. a lobster, crab, etc., just before it molts. [ME] she-dev-il (shē'dēv'el, -dēv'el), *n.* a woman who resembles a devil, as in extreme wickedness, cruelty, or bad temper.

sheer roof', a roof having a single slope. Also called penthouse.

Shee-ler (shē'lar), *n.* Charles, 1883-1965, U.S. painter.

sheen (shēn), *n.* 1. luster; brightness; radiance. 2. gleaming attire. —*adj.* Archaic. 3. shining. 4. beautiful. [ME *sheene*, OE *scēne* beautiful; c. G *schōn*] —*sheen'ful*, *adj.* —*Syn.* 1. See polish.

Sheen (shēn), *n.* Fulton (John), born 1895, U.S. Roman Catholic clergyman, writer, and teacher.

shee-ney (shē'nē), *n.* pl. -neys. Offensive. sheeny? sheeny' (shē'nē), *adj.* sheen-i-er, sheen-i-est, shining; lustrous. [SHEEN + -y]

shee-ny' (shē'nē), *n.* pl. shee-nies. Offensive. a Jew. Also, sheeney, shee'nie. [?]

sheep (shēp), *n.* pl. sheep. 1. any of numerous ruminant mammals of the genus *Ovis*, of the family Bovidae, closely related to the goats, esp. *O. aries*, bred in a number of domesticated varieties. 2. leather made from the skin of these animals. 3. a meek, unimaginative, or easily led person. [ME; OE (north) *scēp*; c. D *schaep*, G *Schaf*]

sheep-berry (shēp'ber-ē, -bē-rē), *n.* pl. -ries. 1. a caprifoliaceous shrub or small tree, *Viburnum Laniago*, of North America, having cymes of small white flowers and edible, berrylike black drupes. 2. the fruit itself.

sheep-cote (shēp'kōt'), *n.* Chiefly Brit. a pen or covered enclosure for sheep.

sheep-dip (shēp'dip'), *n.* Vet. Med. a lotion or wash applied to the fleece or skin of sheep to kill vermin.

sheep-dog (shēp'dōg', -dōg'), *n.* a dog trained to herd and guard sheep. Also, sheep' dog'.

sheep-fold (shēp'fōld'), *n.* Chiefly Brit. an enclosure for sheep. [ME; OE *scēapa fald*]

sheep-head (shēp'hēd'), *n.* pl. (esp. collectively) -heads, (esp. referring to two or more kinds or species) -heads. a large California food fish, *Pimelotomodon pulchrum*, of the wrasse family. [so called from the resemblance of its teeth to those of a sheep]

sheep-herd-er (shēp'hūrd'ər), *n.* shepherd (def. 1). —sheep/herd-ing, *n.* *adj.*

sheep-ish (shē'pish), *adj.* 1. embarrassed, as by having done something wrong or foolish. 2. like sheep, as in meekness or docility. [ME *shepishse*] —sheep'ish-ly, *adv.* —sheep'ish-ness, *n.*

sheep/ ked' (ked). See sheep tick. [ked, earlier *cade* < ?]

sheep-man (shēp'mən, -man'), *n.* pl. -men (-mən, -men'). 1. a man engaged in the tending or breeding of sheep, esp. the owner of a sheep ranch. 2. a shepherd.

sheep's/ eyes', shy, amorous, lovesick glances.

sheep-shank (shēp'shānk'), *n.* a kind of knot, hitch, or bend made on a rope to shorten it temporarily. [short for *sheepshank knot*]

sheeps-head (shēps'hēd'), *n.* pl. (esp. collectively) -heads, (esp. referring to two or more kinds or species) -heads. 1. a deep-bodied, black-banded food fish, *Archosargus probatocephalus*, found along the Atlantic coast of the U.S. 2. a fresh-water drum, *Aplodinotus grunniens*, found in eastern North America. 3. sheephead.

sheep-shearing (shēp'shēr-ing), *n.* 1. the act of shearing sheep. 2. the time or season of shearing sheep. 3. a festival held at this time. —sheep/shear-er, *n.*

sheep-skin (shēp'skīn'), *n.* 1. the skin of a sheep, esp. such a skin dressed with the wool on, as for a garment. 2. leather, parchment, or the like, made from the skin of sheep. 3. Informal, a diploma. [ME *shepskinn*]

sheep/ sor/rel, a slender, polygynaceous weed, *Rumex acetosella*, having hastate leaves with an acid taste.

sheep/ tick', a wingless, bloodsucking dipterous insect, *Melophagus ovinus*, that is parasitic on sheep. Also called sheep ked. [late ME *schepkyke*]

sheer' (shēr), *adj.* 1. transparently thin, as some fabrics; diaphanous; sheer stockings. 2. unmixed with anything else. We drilled a hundred feet through sheer rock. 3. unqualified; utter: sheer nonsense. 4. very steep; almost completely vertical: a sheer descent of rock. —*adv.* 5. clear; completely; quite: ran sheer into the thick of battle. 6. perpendicularly; vertically; very steeply. —*n.* 7. a thin, diaphanous material, as chiffon or voile. [ME *scere*; OE *scēr* clear, undisputed (in legal context); c. Icel *skerr*, akin to OE *scir*, Icel *skir*, G *schier*, Goth *skairs* clear] —sheer'ly, *adv.* —sheer'ness, *n.* —*Syn.* 2. unadulterated. 3. absolute. 4. abrupt, precipitous. —*Ant.* 1. opaque.

sheer' (shēr), *v.t.* 1. to deviate from a course, as a ship; swerve. —*adv.* 2. to cause to shear. —*n.* 3. a deviation, or divergence, as of a ship from her course; swerve. 4. the fore-and-aft upward curve of the hull of a vessel at the main deck or bulwarks. 5. the position in which a ship at anchor is placed to keep her clear of the anchor. [from *SHEER*; cf. sense development of CLEAR]

sheer-legs (shēr'legz'), *n.* (usually construed as pl.) See shear legs.

Sheer-ness (shēr'nēs), *n.* a seaport in N Kent, in SE England, at the mouth of the Thames. 14,123 (1981).

sheer/ plan', Naval Archt. a diagrammatic fore-and-aft elevation of the hull of a vessel. Also called profile plan. Cf. body plan, half-breadth plan.

sheers (shērs), *n.* shear (def. 15).

sheet' (shēt), *n.* 1. a large rectangular piece of linen, cotton, or other material used as an article of bedding. 2. a broad, relatively thin surface, layer, or covering: a sheet of ice. 3. a relatively thin, usually rectangular form, piece, plate, or slab, as of photographic film, glass, or metal. 4. material, as metal or glass, in the form of broad, relatively thin pieces. 5. a sail, as on a ship or boat. 6. a rectangular piece of paper or parchment. 7. Informal, a newspaper or periodical. 8. Printing and Bookbinding, a large, rectangular piece of printing paper, esp. one for printing a complete signature. 9. Philately, the impression from a plate or the like on a single sheet of paper before any division of the paper into

ad, šlē, dāre, šār; ebb, ēqual; lf, ice; hot, deer, order; oil; dōck; dōze; out; up, ūrge; a = a as in alone; chief; shē; thē; thīn; thā; zh as in measure; a as in button (but'n), fire (fīr). See the full key inside the front cover.